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*News Release***



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## Pentagon announces troop rotation plan

**Fort Polk, La.** – The Pentagon announced as part of the troop rotation plan, Fort Polk's largest unit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, is scheduled to redeploy from Iraq sometime during the spring of 2004.

The Pentagon's plan is a "first in—first out" policy.

"We've established a 12-month rotation policy for Iraq. And first in is first out. So the 3rd Infantry Division of the United States Army is coming out in August and September. The remaining Marine division is coming out in the same time frame, and then the other units that are currently there will spend a 12-month tour and be replaced by other army units, as well as coalition divisions," said Gen. John Keane, Acting Chief of Staff of the Army.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment began their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom earlier this year in March with the final elements departing in late April.

As a result of the new troop rotation plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> ACR has a projected return date of March or April 2004. A brigade from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas is scheduled to replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACR.

The complete rotation schedule for Iraq currently looks like this:

- The 82nd Airborne Division will replace the 3rd Infantry Division by September. Only one brigade and the division headquarters from the 82nd Airborne will deploy to Iraq. Two of the division's brigades are currently deployed, one is in Afghanistan and the one in Iraq will re-deploy by January.
- The 1st Infantry Division will deploy from Germany to replace the 4th Infantry Division by April.
- The 1st Cavalry Division will replace both the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Armored Division by April.
- The Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, will replace the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment by March 2004.
- The 173rd Airborne Brigade will re-deploy back to Italy by April.
- A multinational division will replace the 101st Airborne Division by February.
- Two Army National Guard Enhanced Separate Brigade Teams will deploy with the 1st ID and the 1st Cavalry.

Rotational plans for other Fort Polk units currently deployed in Iraq, like the 519<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion and the 142<sup>nd</sup> Corps Support Battalion, have not yet been released. Presently, Fort Polk has over 5,000 active forces deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

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